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TITLE

Furniture Element for Home Use
with Angled Back and Seat Portions

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Not Applicable.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED
RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

Not Applicable.

REFERENCE TO SEQUENCE LISTING, TABLE OR
COMPUTER PROGRAM LISTING APPENDIX

Not Applicable.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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The invention relates to a furniture element for home use comprising a seat portion and a back portion, said seat portion being connected with said back portion.

Many forms of seat elements of this kind are known for general use in residential quarters to answer an individual's need to rest in a pleasing and relaxing posture. The design of conventional seat elements tends to create comfort by providing body-engaging surfaces as diffuse as possible, which in the user's perception give preference to body mass over body shape - i.e. they invite sleep-like conditions. Because of this one-sided aim conventional seat elements are totally unsuited for persons desiring to maintain or restore their body shape.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

- 10 It is the object of the present invention to provide a seat element which ensures constant pressure on uniformly expanding bodies and thus offers the most favorable conditions possible for regulating the tonus of the human organism.

This object is achieved by the back portion comprising a pair of ~~black~~ back panels connected with each other at a predetermined angle along a center line, by the seat portion comprising a pair of seat

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panels connected with each other at said predetermined angle along a center line, and by the back and seat portions being connected with each other at a predetermined angle along a base line.

These measures result in a seat element which offers maximum support while keeping the engaged body surfaces to a minimum. This creates a uniform tension throughout the body which results in most favorable conditions for the user's space awareness, quiet and attention.

For further development, it is contemplated to connect the back panels and the seat panels at a right angle along their center lines and to connect the back and seat portions at a right angle along said base line. It is contemplated also to connected the back and seat panels in a manner such that they form an integral unit.

Such mutually perpendicular arrangement of the seat and back portions, as well as of the back and seat portions, results in an inverted pyramid having uniform 45° angles. All the angles of the seat element are right angles and thus feature a maximum distance of the legs to horizontal and vertical; they meet at a minimum/maximum to the vertical and the horizontal, respectively, thus creating a uniform weight distribution, with the pressure the body weight exerts through the body's center region. The resultant intrinsic body tension produces a minimum of locomotion and maximum of motility.

Additional advantageous measures are described in the dependent claims. The invention is illustrated in the attached drawing and is described in greater detail hereinbelow.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a side view partly in section of a furniture element in the form of a seat element supported on its resting point and of a foot rest associated with said seat element;

Fig. 1a is a side view, partly in section, of a foot rest standing on its support point in association with a seat element as shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 2 shows a seat element as in Fig. 1 in plan;

Fig. 2a is a view in plan of a foot rest as shown in Fig. 1a;

Fig. 3 shows a front view of a seat element as in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3a is a front view of a foot rest as shown in Fig. 1a;

Fig. 4 shows a view towards the back of a seat element according to Figs. 1 to 3;

Fig. 4a is a view in plan of a foot rest as shown in Fig. 1a;

5 Fig. 5 shows an isometric view of a furniture element in the form of a couch element for home use having lying panels disposed at a predetermined angle;

Fig. 6 shows seat panels of a furniture element in the form of a stool having seat panels disposed at a predetermined angle.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

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10 As shown in Figs. 1, 2 3 and 4, an inventive furniture element for home use in the form of a seat element 10 essentially comprises a back portion 10a integrally connected with a seat portion 10b. By itself, back portion 10a comprises a pair of back panels 11, 11a disposed at an angle 15a relative to each other and symmetrically with respect to center line 22, as shown in Fig. 4. Angle 15a preferably is a right angle. As shown in Fig. 1, angle 15 between back portion 10a and seat portion 10b is a right
15 angle as well.

As shown in Fig. 3, seat portion 10b likewise comprises a pair of seat panels 12, 12a of equal length and disposed - as shown in Fig. 4 - at a predetermined angle 15a relative to each other. Angle 15a is a right angle.

20 Seat element rests on a floor 14, which corresponds to the horizontal, in the form of an inverted four-sided pyramid supported on its resting point 30. Support members 13 are provided to maintain seat element 10 in position, with angle 16 between horizontal floor 14 and back portion 10a, as well as an angle 16a between horizontal 14 and seat portion 10b, in the ideal position being 45° each.

As shown in Fig. 2, back panels 11, 11a are integrally connected with each other along a common center line 22. The same way, seat panels 12, 12a are integrally connected with each other along a

common center line 22a. Back panel 11 is integrally connected with seat panel 12 along a base line 23 and back panel 11a is integrally connected with seat panel 12a along a base line 23a.

As shown in Fig. 1, center lines 22, 22a are disposed at an angle 15 relative to each other, which preferably is a right angle. Also, base line 23 and base line 23a are disposed at an angle 15a relative to each other, which preferably is a right angle as well. Base lines 23 and 23a have the same length and meet center lines 22, 22a at a rest point 30.

As shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 4, back portion 10a has a head support element 17 placed therein. As shown in Figs. 2 and 4, head support element 17 comprises a pair of integrally connected side portions 25, 25a of substantially the same size which are disposed at a right angle relative to each other. Side portions 25, 25a have a predetermined thickness increasing uniformly from top edge 26 of head support element 17 to bottom edge 27 thereof. Head support element 17 is mounted in back 10a for height adjustment along center line 22.

As shown in Figs. 1a, 2a, 3a and 4a, seat element 10 has a foot support 18 associated therewith. Foot support 18 comprises a pair of base members 20, 20a disposed at a right angle relative to each other and integrally connected with support members 21, 21a along a base line 24, 24a.

Base members 20, 20a, as well as support members 21, 21a, are integrally connected with each other at a right angle along a center line 22. A longitudinal rib 19 extends along center line 22 in foot support 18. Longitudinal rib 19 stands substantially vertically on center line 22.

As also shown in Figs. 1 and 1a, the distance 28 between foot support 18 and seat element 10 or seat portion 10b, respectively, is provided to be adjustable. By its resting point 31, foot support 18 is mounted in a foot support holder 33. Height 29 of foot support holder 33 relative to the floor or to the horizontal 14, respectively, is variable. Foot support 18 is configured to form an inverted four-sided pyramid as well, with support angles 32, 32a being substantially 45° between foot support holder 33 and base members 20, 20a or support members 21, 21a, respectively.

The furniture element for home use shown in Fig. 5 is a couch 34 consisting of two oppositely disposed lying panels 35 and 35a. Lying panels 35, 35a meet at a predetermined angle 37. Angle 37 preferably is a right angle.

Couch 34 may be maintained in its lying position by means of support element 36 or - as shown - may be made to be integral with an erecting member 36a. Lying panels 35, 35a are preferably provided with cushioning 38.

Fig. 6 shows furniture element in the form of a stool 39 consisting of two oppositely disposed stool panels 40 and 40a. Stool panels 40, 40a meet at a predetermined stool panel angle 41. Stool panel angle 41 preferably is a right angle; its apex may be utilized as a resting or support point for stool 39.

In the embodiment shown, stool panel angle 41 is integrated in an erecting member 42. Stool panels 40, 40a may be provided with cushioning 43.

Whereas the present invention has been described with respect to specific embodiments thereof, it will be understood that various changes and modifications will be suggested to one of ordinary skill in the art, and it is intended that the invention encompass such changes and modifications as fall within the scope of the appended claims.